Read what past Fellows say about their experience with the NSP:

“My experience with the NSP was an excellent one… I was able to transition easily into my new field [of neuroscience] through networking and the opportunity to present my work. The NSP was valuable to my career development and I continue to profit from the experience.”

“My participation in the NSP allowed me the protected time and funding to establish the research interests and skills to begin my academic career.”

“It is vital to know established individuals who will provide guidance. This is the key to the success of the NSP. I believe that meeting people I might not have without the NSP has been vital to my career progress thus far.”
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Neuroscience Scholars Program is a two-year training program open to underrepresented graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. Building on a 30-year history, the program supports annual travel awards, mentoring, and professional development opportunities of up to 18 NSP Fellows.

In addition, all eligible applicants not selected as Fellows will be invited to become NSP Associates.

NSP Associates receive:

• An online community of NSP peers and Alumni for seeking career connections and guidance.
• Webinars and resources that focus on career advancement issues, topics related to the research process, and cutting-edge scientific content.
• An invitation to present research at the Diversity Poster Session and attend Diversity events at the annual meeting.
• The opportunity to receive a professional development award to support travel to the SfN meeting during their second year in the program (selected Associates are notified at the beginning of the two-year program).

NSP Fellows receive all of the same benefits as Associates, plus:

• A mentoring team consisting of a senior mentor and a member of the Neuroscience Scholars Program subcommittee. The team will discuss a Fellow’s research, career plans, and overall experience.
• Two years of complimentary SfN membership.
• Travel award to attend the SfN annual meeting each fall during the two-year program.
• Up to $1,500 in enrichment funds to support allowed professional development activities.

The extensive two-year training program provides live events and webinars, a rich library of educational resources, and an online community for seeking career connections and guidance from peers and NSP Alumni. Events, webinars, and resources focus on career advancement issues, topics related to research process, and cutting-edge scientific content.

Eligibility

According to guidelines of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), candidates must be:

• Citizens or permanent residents of the US
• Enrolled in a graduate degree-granting program or postdoctoral fellowship
• From a group recognized as underrepresented in the biomedical, behavioral, clinical, and social sciences. This includes:
  • Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders
  • Individuals with disabilities, defined as physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities
  • Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, described as those who meet two or more of the criteria defined by NINDS

Frequently asked questions

Q: Who selects the NSP Fellows and Associates?
A: Fellows and Associates are selected by the Neuroscience Scholars Program Selection Committee of the SfN Professional Development Committee.

Q: What are the criteria used to select Fellows and Associates?
A: Fellows and Associates are selected based on:
• Academic accomplishments
• Research performance and productivity
• Potential strength and impact of the NSP on the applicant
• Career goals and two-year plan
• Letters of recommendation
• Strength of research advisor and institution
• Plans to improve community and/or promote diversity in neuroscience

Q: When are applications due and where can I obtain application materials?
A: The application window opens in January. Application materials are available at SfN.org/nsp.

Learn more at SfN.org/nsp